

**SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 23, 2010**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a special meeting on Wednesday, June 23, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT.

Present: Councilors Drake, Hurley, Manousos, Montinieri, Deputy Mayor Console and Chairperson Hemmann.

Absent: Councilor Kotkin, McAlister and Roberts.

Also present: Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, Nancy Stilwell, Director of Social and Youth Services, Mike Turner, Director of Physical Services/Town Engineer, Marlene Desjardins, Tax Collector, Kathy Bagley, Director of Recreation and Parks and Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk

Chairperson Hemmann called the meeting to order.

Councilor Hurley led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

HEARING

Acceptance of Youth Services Bureau Grant – hearing closed.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Aurelio Interlandi, 249 Willow Street, commented on the Wilkus Farms property, the fence that he had put up on his property next to Wilkus Farm property, and his willingness to be part of the Wilkus Farm Committee. He also suggested Tony DiCiccio as a possible member of the Wilkus Farm Committee.

Barbara Ruhe, 79 Main Street, rejoiced with the purchase of the Comstock Ferre property and suggested using the Wilkus Farm property as a tree farm.

Joe Hickey, 28 Meadow View Drive, spoke in support of the proposal of the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Wilkus Farm and offered himself to be considered a member of the committee. Mr. Hickey also showed his support of the recent purchase of the Comstock Ferre property.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, commented on discussions at the last meeting regarding the replacement sidewalks on Morrison Avenue and suggested that the Town should pay for the replacement sidewalks. Mr. Young also commented on the discussions concerning the entrance from 91 into Old Wethersfield and after observing the property, felt that what was presented to the Town Council regarding the tree sizes was inaccurate. He suggested that the trees should be

replaced with grass or evergreen trees. He also commented on reducing costs but still maintain the town buildings.

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Avenue, commented on the issue of sidewalks on Morrison Avenue and asked who is accountable for getting the tasks completed.

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, commented on issues concerning texting while driving and enforcement of the law; the problems that all levels of government are having with money; improvements to the Wethersfield High School and maintaining town properties.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Drake reported that there will be an Infrastructure Committee meeting on Monday, June 28 and the issues regarding Morrison Avenue will be discussed. Councilor Drake stated that the committee is trying to be fair to the entire town and the idea is to assess the Morrison Avenue residents 25% of the cost to replace the sidewalks.

Councilor Manousos reported for the Budget and Finance Committee which met last week to discuss the final candidates for Agent of Record for property casualty, workers compensation and health insurance. The meeting with the auditor has been rescheduled and audits will be reviewed in order that reports can be completed for the fund balance. Councilor Manousos also reported for the Public Works Committee meeting last week concerning Transfer Station fees and the disposition of town owned lots and what the revenues can be used for other than operating costs and suggested that perhaps it can be used for capital improvement projects.

Chairperson Hemmann reported for the Shade Tree Commission and the need to trim or take down any broken limbs or trees due to damage or displacement of trees.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Deputy Mayor Console commented that with the sale of Comstock Ferre he hopes this brings success to Old Wethersfield. He also noted that he attended an awards ceremony for three Eagle Boy Scouts, and the Wethersfield High School graduation. Deputy Mayor Console also commented on Morrison Avenue and stated that it was very important for residents to attend the meeting next week with regards to the sidewalks and to come to a resolution of this matter. He also discussed the Holbrook Terrace matter and the Housing Authority and stated that he is aware of what is going on and there will be a meeting scheduled soon to work out the issues. Deputy Mayor Console also commented on the Town of Wethersfield coming in tenth in the "Best Places to Live" in the Housing Magazine and he commented on the quality of life issues. Deputy Mayor reported that he is concerned that the Interim Superintendent has hired a human resource and finance person for the Wethersfield High School. He noted that hiring for this position at

this time was a bad idea and meetings should have been scheduled before a decision had been made.

Deputy Mayor Console noted that he had the honor to meet with Mr. Kelly to review the Gateway project and he also spoke with Senator Fonfara, the Town Manager and Chairperson Hemmann, he noted that this project needs to be done correctly and done right.

Deputy Mayor Console commented on the article in the Hartford Courant regarding Wethersfield High School renovations. He noted that he is not here to put anything on referendum. He feels that the life of the building is coming to an end. He wants to do the right thing for the Town and make people aware that this is a project that needs to be done in the next five or six years. He also noted the repair of the auditorium seats at the Wethersfield High School can be repaired through the State Penal system for materials only.

Councilor Drake asked for clarification on the administrative report of the Town Manager, if the Town were to pull out of the CRRA, is the Town responsible for a \$2 million obligation.

Jeff Bridges noted that it is not if the Town were to pull out of CRRA, it is whether MDC, who currently has the contract to manage the facility, doesn't get the contract to continue managing the facility. He explained that MDC is obligated to continue to pay for the long term employee costs that they have to absorb, and the costs are distributed back to the MDC towns.

Councilor Drake asked whether MDC has put money aside for the employees' pensions like they are supposed to.

Jeff Bridges' noted that at this time, this is MDC's position on the matter.

Councilor Drake asked if the Town was aware of this issue when the contract was signed.

Jeff Bridges responded that the contract was written with a different level of sophistication.

Chairperson Hemmann noted that the current language states that 2012 is when the contract ends. There is a disagreement between CRRA and MDC as to how the contract is going to be handled for those employees. CRRA as the owner, should have been putting money away to handle this situation and noted that legal environments are involved at this time in order to settle the matter. She also noted that it is not the Town's decision as to how the matter is handled.

Councilor Montinieri congratulated the small group of parents who helped make the Safe Graduation celebration a success for the graduating class.

Chairperson Hemmann noted that she attended a Girl Scout Silver Award ceremony at the Emerson Williams School. The troop's community project involved planting a butterfly garden, installing a paver wall, putting in picnic tables and a path leading from the library to the other side of the building. The garden is also handicapped assessable. She noted that she was very

proud of the troop and the Town is very lucky to have young men and women active in the Girl Scouts and Eagle Scouts.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Jeff Bridges followed up on a complaint received at the last meeting regarding a faulty sidewalk. A letter has been sent to the homeowner. If the homeowner does not repair the sidewalk the Town will do so and send a bill to the homeowner.

COUNCIL ACTION

Deputy Mayor Console moved **"TO APPOINT:**

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Leslie C. Cole	R	69 Boulter Road	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2012
Stuart Temple	R	317 Brimfield Road	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2012

CONSTABLES

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
George W. Cote	R	131 Charter Road	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2012
Steven McFarland	R	80 Farmingdale Road	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2012
Fredrick H. Rackle	R	14 Pebble Road	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2012
Sebastian Dignoti	R	75 Westwood Drive	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2012

DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Steven C. Hine	R	294 Hang Dog Lane	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2012

ETHICS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
John C. Lepper (as alt)	U	932 Ridge Road	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2013

FAIR RENT COMMISSION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Robert Garrey (as landlord)	R	10 Morrison Ave	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2012

FENCE VIEWERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>
Peter E. Gardow	R	60 Griswold Road	7-01-2010 to 6-30-2012

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>
Bette A Botticello	U	35 Deerfield Road	7-1-2010 to 6-30-2015
Susan Gillanders (as alt)	R	66 Sharon Lane	7-1-2010 to 6-30-2013

INLAND WETLANDS AND WATER COURSES COMMISSION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>
William S. Randazzo	R	424 Old Reservoir Rd	7-1-2010 to 6-30-2013
Mark Console (as alt)	R	695 Wells Rd	7-1-2010 to 6-30-2013
Robert Cobb (to fill an alt. vacancy)	R	99 Meadow View	7-1-2010 to 6-30-2012

LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>
Clare Meade	U	373 Main Street	7-1-2010 to 6-30-2013
Laura Nash (*not an elector)	*	38 Ivy Lane	7-1-2010 to 6-30-2013

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>
John Rascius	D	418 Wolcott Hill	7-1-2010 to 6-30-2013

PERSONNEL APPEALS BOARD

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>
Daniel Montano[SR] (filling vacancy)	R	435 Old Reservoir	7-1-2010 to *6-30-2011
Joseph Koneski	R	140 Eastern Drive	7-1-2010 to 6-30-2013

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
James F. Hughes	U	135 Highland St	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2013
Antonio L. Margiotta	R	155 Stockingmill Road	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2013
Angelo Robert Fazzina (as an alt)	R	19 Fairmont Street	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2013

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Joseph Koneski	R	140 Eastern Drive	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2013

TOURISM COMMISSION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Elaine R. St.Onge (Hist. Soc. Slot)	R	101 Boulter Road	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2013

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Mark R. Rudewicz	R	6 Timber Trail	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2015
Eugene Ziurys, Jr. (as alt)	R	176 Amherst Street	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2013

seconded by Councilor Hurley.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Councilor Montinieri moved **“TO APPOINT:**

ASSESSMENT APPEALS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Brendan T. Flynn	D	109 Springdale Road	7-10-2010 to	06-30-2016

BUILDING APPEALS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Joseph M. Hallisey	D	101 Sunrise Terrace	07-10-2010 to	06-30-2015

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
John J. Mullin	U	158 Windmill Hill	7-1-10 to	6-30-2012

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT HEALTH DISTRICT

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Grant R. Golub, MD	D	25 Knight Street	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2013

CONSTABLES

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Albert J. Bonfiglio	D	P.O. Box 290001	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2012
Brian F. Zito	D	P.O. Box 290001	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2012
John J. O'Leary	U	P. O. Box 29002	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2012

DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Joseph E. Hickey, Jr.	D	28 Meadow View Drive	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2012

DISABILITIES, WETHERSFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Lisa Ann DiBella	D	100 Executive Sq. #425	7-1-10 to	6-30-2012
Francis G. Meunier Jr.	U	117 Wells Road	7-1-10 to	6-30-2012
Kathleen Sullivan	D	90 Clearfield Road	7-1-10 to	6-30-2012
Lauren E. Muscarella	D	149 Clearfield Road	7-1-10 to	6-30-2012
Howard A. Geltman	D	74 Dale Road	7-1-10 to	6-30-2012

DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Joseph E. Hickey, Jr.	D	28 Meadow View Drive	7-1-2010 to	01-01-2013

ETHICS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Sheila Hennessey	D	431 Wolcott Hill Road	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2013
Heidi Lane	D	164 Windmill Hill	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2013
Lorinda Coon (as an alternate)	D	11 Robbins Drive	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2013

Fair Rent Commission

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Jeanette E. Soroko*	U	37B Fairway Drive	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2012
Cynthia L. Zuerblis***	D	119 Two Rod Hwy.	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2012
Susan Grady*** (alternate)	D	25 Westlook Road	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2012

*Tenants ***At-large

FENCE VIEWERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Harry L. Lichtenbaum	D	16 Towne House Lane	7-01-2010 to	6-30-2012
Eric W. Litke	U	33 Farmstead Road	7-01-2010 to	6-30-2012

FLOOD & EROSION CONTROL BOARD

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Lorinda S. Coon	D	Robbins Drive	7-01-2010 to	6-30-2013
Douglas A. Ovia	D	56 Broad Street	7-01-2010 to	6-30-2012

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Mark A. Raymond (as an alternate)	D	323 Hartford Avenue	7-16-2010 to	6-30-2013

HOUSING AUTHORITY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
George J. Kelly, Jr.	D	369 Hartford Avenue	9-1-2010 to	8-31-2015

HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELATIONS COMMISSION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Lorrie L. Adeyemi	D	111 Woodside Drive	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2013

INLAND WETLANDS AND WATER COURSES COMMISSION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Joseph M. Hallisey	D	101 Sunrise Terrace	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2013
Brent M. Owen	D	42 Wells Farm Drive	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2013
Matthew John Zagaja	D	12 Cornish Road	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2013

LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Daniel A. Silver	D	19 Orchard Brook Ddrive	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2013

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Thomas A. Ragonese	D	140 Black Birch	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2013

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Joseph L. Hammer	D	65 Broad Street	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2013

SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Joseph M. Mehan	D	34 Two Brook Road	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2011
Estelle B. Knurek (at large)	D	15 Pepperidge Road	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2011
Jane Helen Ross (at large)	D	80 Saxon Road	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2011

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Joseph Koneski	R	140 Eastern Drive	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2013
Joseph E. Hickey	D	28 Meadowview Drive	6-30-2010 to	6-30-2013

SOLOMON WELLES HOUSE COMMITTEE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Carolyn Bedula	U	55 Holly Lane	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2013
Nancy C. Smith	D	23 Bunce Road	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2013

TOURISM COMMISSION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Elaine R. St.Onge (Hist. Soc. Slot)	R	101 Boulter Road	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2013
Charles F. Ford (Shopkeepers)	U	249 Ridge Road	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2013
Katie Sullivan (Res. At large)	D	9 Wright Road	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2013
Jenna Delay (as an alternate)	U	167 Church Street	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2013

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Victoria Borkowski (under 21 to fill vacancy)		91 Goff Road	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2011

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pty</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Mark R. Rudewicz	R	6 Timber Trail	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2015
Eugene Ziurys, Jr. (as alt)	R	176 Amherst Street	7-1-2010 to	6-30-2013

seconded by Deputy Mayor Console.

Councilor Hurley inquired as to why two constables use post office boxes for their address and asked if they are residents of Wethersfield.

Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk, responded that they are residents of Wethersfield and they had requested to use a post office box and they do have the right to ask to use the post office box as their address.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.
(Except for Deputy Mayor Console abstained the appointment for Laura Nash and Mark Console) 5-0-1.

OTHER BUSINESS

Deputy Mayor Console moved to “**AUTHORIZE THE RESOLUTION REGARDING THE AUTHORIZATION OF A GRANT FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND YOUTH SERVICES AND THE AWARD OF FUNDS FROM THE GRANT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND YOUTH SERVICES,**” seconded by Councilor Hurley.

Jeff Bridges noted that the Youth Services Bureau (YSB) grant has been awarded annually to the Department of Social & Youth Services for over 20 years.

Nancy Stilwell, Director of Social and Youth Services, stated that the grant was originally managed by the Department of Children and Family Services, but for the past fifteen years, the funds now come from the State through the Department of Education. She explained also that the money is used for salary support for youth services staff.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Deputy Mayor Console moved to **“ACCEPT THE BID FROM TOTAL FENCE LLC FOR \$84,927 AND NEGOTIATE A CHANGE ORDER WITH THE VENDOR FOR THE MODIFICATIONS FOR THE WOODEN GUIDERAIL,** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

Jeff Bridges noted that at the last Council Meeting staff was asked to look at the options available for replacing the current post and cable guiderail along the Marsh Street entrance with an emphasis toward the wooden railing which was the expectation for the project. Included with the memo is information from Town Engineer Mike Turner regarding the options and the costs of using the wooden railing desired for the project at specific locations. Also included are the original bid results on the project which had the wooden railing for the entire project.

Councilor Drake asked if the Town would be getting an additional 150 feet of wooden railing for an additional \$15,000.

Mike Turner clarified that the Town would be receiving an additional 250 feet of wooden railing for \$15,000. He explained that at the last Council meeting, there was discussion regarding replacing a portion of the three cable guiderail at the Great Meadow/Marsh Street entrance and at the area near the vista of the cemetery. They approached the contractor and looked at the state bids and was able to apply the numbers. Mike Turner stated that he priced out 150 feet and priced out replacing the metal beam guide rail on the outside the curve near the MDC pumping station with wood rails. These two items combined added \$15,000 to the project cost and would be within the budget. The three cable wire with steel post would be installed for the remaining guiderail.

Councilor Drake asked if the \$155,000 was the budget.

Mike Turner responded that it is a \$155,000 grant.

Councilor Drake asked why the project could not be completed for \$115,000.

Mike Turner responded that the total project called for 1,500 feet of guide rail and with the three cable price at \$22/foot, the wood rails are at a cost of \$80/foot.

Jeff Bridges notes that there is local money available to be used.

Mike Turner concurred that local money is available to be used. The total budget is \$155,000 and the bid came in under \$100,000.

Deputy Mayor Console moved to **“TABLE THE BID FROM TOTAL FENCE LLC FOR \$84,927 AND NEGOTIATE A CHANGE ORDER WITH THE VENDOR FOR THE**

MODIFICATIONS FOR THE WOODEN GUIDERAIL, seconded by Councilor Hurley.

Deputy Mayor Console stated that he felt the project wasn't going the way it should be going and wants to see the project done the right way. He also noted that Senator Fonfara said that he was against using any metal guard rail in this project and stated that there was enough money to do the entire roadway with the wood rails.

Chairperson Hemmann noted that there is an outstanding bid and asked how long the bid can be held and would it be more proper to reject the bid and go back to Infrastructure and then rebid it in the project that way we want it done.

Mike Turner stated that the bids were opened on April 28 and can be held for 90 days.

Deputy Mayor Console reiterated that both he and Senator Fonfara want this project to be done correctly and look nice.

Chairperson Hemmann noted that if this matter is going to be tabled, need to keep in mind the timeline, we need to either act on the bid or reject the bid.

Mike Turner asked if Council was asking for him to get a quote from the contractor as to a specific change order to incorporate that into an award.

Councilor Drake asked for clarification as to whether the amount available was \$134,000 or \$115,000.

Jeff Bridges responded that the amount available is \$155,000.

Councilor Drake stated that it sounded like there is enough money.

Mike Turner stated that when the bid went out, it was to replace everything with wooden guide rails, and the quote came back at \$300,000.

Councilor Drake suggested adding this matter to the Infrastructure meeting Monday night and get it resolved.

Deputy Mayor Console stated again that this matter should be done correctly.

Jeff Bridges noted that this project started off as a Preserve America project based on signage and the guide rails had come in later but still need to be accounted for.

Councilor Manousos asked if the grant money can be used first before tapping into the town money.

RaeAnn Palmer noted that the \$115,000 is the state money that Senator Fonfara was able to get

and the \$40,000 is capitol money which is not reliant on the grant.

Deputy Mayor Console noted that the east side of the street belongs to the State of Connecticut and the Town owns the west side.

Councilor Manousos asked if the area is going to be maintained.

Deputy Mayor Console noted that if the project is done as the Merritt Parkway was done, there should be very little maintenance.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion to table passed 6-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Appointment of Wilkus Property Committee:

Chairperson Hemmann noted that there are five names to be considered: Joe Hickey, Bill Knapp, Rick Garry, Mike Raffalo and Ingrid Boelhouwer and this committee is to run through the Infrastructure Committee with Councilor Drake as the facilitator of the group. This group will meet during July and August with recommendations due to council. The scope and charge is to develop, discuss, make recommendations for the layout for the use and prioritize fashion, what uses are feasible. Such suggestions to date are a tree farm, community farms, etc. Discussions for the house and farm, the risks related to the house and discussion on the issue as to whether the wants to be a landlord, and to develop rules for the use and potential risks of suggestions.

Jeff Bridges asked if this committee will be part of the Infrastructure or a subgroup.

Chairperson Hemmann responded that it will be subgroup of the Infrastructure Committee.

Deputy Mayor Console moved to **“APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE USE OF THE WILKUS PROPERTY FOR THE TIME PERIOD OF EIGHT WEEKS AND TO APPOINT THE FIVE ABOVE-REFERENCED INDIVIDUALS TO THE COMMITTEE,”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

Councilor Hurley asked if this matter could be tabled in order to discuss who the individuals are on the committee. He noted that he knew Joe Hickey and Rick Garry but didn't know the other individuals.

Chairperson Hemmann noted that Chief Knapp was on the previous committee and was supportive of the purchase of the property, Mike Raffalo has expressed interest on serving on the committee and Ingrid Boelhouwer was on the previous committee and is chairperson of the Conservation Committee.

Councilor Hurley stated that his vote would be no at this time.

Councilor Montinieri asked if there were additional individuals who had expressed an interest but were not chosen to serve on the committee and if the number of people for the committee needed to be reduced because of lack of time.

Chairperson Hemmann responded that they needed to cut the number of members down to get the process started. The sale of the property took longer than anticipated and rules need to be established and move forward.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilor Hurley and Montinieri voted nay. The motion failed.

WRITE OFF OF 1994 UNPAID TAXES

Deputy Mayor Console moved to **“WRITE OFF THE UNCOLLECTED PERSONAL PROPERTY, REAL ESTATE AND MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES FROM 1994 GRAND LIST IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 12-164 OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES AND THE ATTACHED LIST,”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

Jeff Bridges stated that in accordance with Section 12-164 of the Connecticut General Statutes, see attached, the Tax Collector is unable to enforce the collection of unpaid taxes after fifteen years for the original due date. The Tax Collector identified those uncollected personal property, real estate and motor vehicle taxes from the 1994 Grand List that must be written off. The total amount of the write off is \$34,069.44, which is slightly more than the \$32,684.11 from 1993.

Deputy Mayor Console stated that he understands that it is now impossible at this point to collect on past motor vehicle taxes, but asked if steps are in place now to collect on motor vehicle taxes.

Marlene Desjardins noted that there is a program called “Accurate” that is being used that can assist in finding anyone in the United States.

Deputy Mayor Console noted that the tax department has done a great job.

Councilor Hurley asked if all other avenues of collection have been exhausted and if a third party collection agency has been used.

Marlene Desjardins responded that third party collection agencies have been looked into but most companies want to be paid even if the account is paid in-house.

Councilor Drake questioned why the outstanding amounts cannot remain on account.

Marlene Desjardins responded that a state statute requires all past accounts be written off after fifteen years. Also, after fifteen years, the outstanding balance cannot be legally collected.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

BUDGET TRANSFER REQUEST – MILL WOODS PARK

Deputy Mayor Console moved to **“AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF \$10,000 FROM THE PARK MAINTENANCE WATER ACCOUNT TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET FOR THE MILL WOODS PARK PARKING LOT,”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

Jeff Bridges stated that the MDC did not charge the Town to fill the Mill Woods pool for swimming this year; therefore, the Park Maintenance budget has \$10,000 in unexpended funds. Staff is requesting authorization to transfer the funds to the construction account for the expansion of the Mill Woods Parking lot that is adjacent to the lighted Little League field. The Capital budget currently has \$25,000 in funding for the parking lot project. The project is currently in the design stages and staff anticipates that there will be drainage improvements necessary and that the allocated funding will not cover the cost of the whole job. Staff anticipates that initially, the lot will need to be gravel.

Chairperson Hemmann noted that this matter can be traced back to an unknown overcharge that occurred in the past.

Councilor Drake asked if this matter should go back to Capital Improvements for prioritizing capital money.

Chairperson Hemmann asked Town Manager Jeff Bridges for a recommendation.

Jeff Bridges noted that Capital Improvements had authorized \$25,000 towards the construction for the Mill Woods parking lot project and \$10,000 was to be used for operational expenses at

Mill Woods and in keeping it part of the Mill Woods improvement plan, it is consistent with the original plan. If there are left over Capital Improvement funds, those should go back to CINC for a recommendation.

Councilor Montinieri asked if the \$25,000 was not enough to complete the project, what is the cost of the parking lot project.

Kathy Bagley stated that they are currently working on a cost estimate that will expand and completely repave the existing parking lot and the \$25,000 was originally scheduled for a design fee but the Town Engineering Department was able to work on the design in-house and cost estimates will be done for the project. When the plan was originally done by an architect as part of the Mill Woods Master Plan, the cost was looking to exceed \$125,000. They are looking to do everything in-house. The \$25,000 plus the \$10,000 right now will cover the cost of a gravel parking lot. As additional money comes in from future sources, the parking lot can be paved.

Councilor Montinieri asked if this was in a sense building a reserve for the project.

Kathy Bagley responded that it was and that the parking lot definitely needs to be paved.

Councilor Hurley asked how much is needed to complete the project.

Kathy Bagley responded that the Engineering Department is working on estimate. The original estimate was over \$125,000 for the Master Plan which was for a complete paving job.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

BUDGET TRANSFER REQUEST – NATURE CENTER

Deputy Mayor Console moved to **“AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF \$7,077.34 FROM THE NATURE CENTER UTILITIES ACCOUNTS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ATTACHED BUDGET TRANSFER FORM, TO THE NATURE CENTER FUND 2025-49700 TO BE USED FOR FUTURE UTILITIES OR BUILDING MAINTENANCE EXPENSES,”** seconded by Councilor Manousos.

Jeff Bridges reported that as authorized in Section 709 of the Town of Wethersfield Charter, the Council, upon recommendation of the Town Manager may transfer the whole or part of any of the unencumbered balance of any appropriation. Transfers between department appropriations may only occur in the last three months of the fiscal year. The Nature Center ran a surplus or didn't use the entire utilities account and has asked to keep the funds in the Nature Center operations account and move it to a reserve account.

Councilor Montinieri asked what percentage was the savings from the total budget.

Kathy Bagley responded that it was a 20% savings from this fiscal year.

Councilor Montinieri questioned where the savings came from.

Kathy Bagley stated that the savings came from the heating and electricity and noted that the Nature Center worked very hard at conserving utilities in general.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

TRANSFER STATION FEES

Councilor Hurley moved to **“AUTHORIZE THE ATTACHED TRANSFER STATION FEES,”** seconded by Councilor Manousos.

Jeff Bridges stated the Public Works Sub-committee of the Town Council met with staff to review proposed fees for the Transfer Station to be effective on July 1, 2010. The sub-committee

voted unanimously to approve the attached transfer station fees which are part of an overall strategy to make the Transfer Station more user friendly and a longer term strategy to reduce municipal solid waste and increase recycling and/or reuse. The new fees are substantially lower than the current fees and allow for residents to bring one bag of household trash to the transfer station per day for free. All residents will be required to purchase a five dollar annual permit to use the Transfer Station. The purpose of the permit is to verify residency. In addition, staff has recommended that the Town hold a free yard waste day at the Transfer Station in the spring. Jeff Bridges also noted that RaeAnn Palmer was present to answer any questions.

Chairperson Hemmann asked if some of the changes could be highlighted.

RaeAnn Palmer noted that the permit fee went from \$30.00 annually to \$5.00 annually. Second, the bulk cost fee was dropped from \$30.00 to \$25.00. White goods drop off is \$10.00, pick up fees is \$15.00, furniture is \$10.00 an item and solid waste per bag was \$3.00/bag and is now free.

Deputy Mayor Console stated the prices were reasonable and asked if the schedule can be submitted to the Wethersfield and on the television scroller.

RaeAnn Palmer noted that if adopted tonight, an insert will go into the tax bills.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

BUDGET TRANSFER – FAÇADE LOAN PROGRAM

Councilor Hurley moved to **“REQUEST A TRANSFER OF \$50,000 FROM THE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT TO THE FAÇADE LOAN PROGRAM FOR COMSTOCK FERRE,”** seconded by Deputy Mayor Console.

Jeff Bridges noted that the staff is requesting a \$50,000 transfer from the contingency account to the Façade Loan Program for this property to rehab the exterior of the property. The owner will have to comply with all the rules of the Façade Loan Program but the money is necessary for new signage and repairs to the exterior of the building. They will be investing substantially more than this sum.

Deputy Mayor Console asked if the new owners will be following the local rules of the Façade Program.

Jeff Bridges responded that yes, they will be.

Councilor Drake asked if there was already \$50,000 in the Façade Program.

Jeff Bridges noted that presently there is \$25,000 in the account.

Chairperson Hemmann noted that it has been a very successful program.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

BIDS

Councilor Manousos moved to **“APPROVE THE MANAGER’S APPOINTMENT OF SAVINO, STURROCK & SULLIVAN AS THE AGENT OF RECORD FOR GROUP HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE AND TO APPROVE THE MANAGER’S APPOINTMENT OF USI FOR PROPERTY AND CASUALTY AND WORKERS’ COMPENSATION INSURANCE,”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

Jeff Bridges reported that Article III of the Code of the Town of Wethersfield provides for the appointments of agents of record for insurance coverage. The Town currently has two agents of record; one for group health and life insurance benefits, and the other for the property, casualty and workers’ compensation insurance. Every three years the Insurance Committee is required to nominate two names to the Town Manager for those positions. Subject to the approval of the Council the Manager will appoint the agent(s) of record. The Insurance Committee solicited requests for proposals for the positions and nominated two firms for each of the area of coverage.

Councilor Drake asked who the agent of record is presently.

Jeff Bridges responded that agent for health and life is the same and the current agent for property and casualty is TD Bank Insurance.

Councilor Manousos stated that the Insurance Committee decided not to short list the current contract so there were two new vendors and this wasn’t the lowest bid received.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Councilor Hurley moved to **“AWARD THE BID FOR BITUMINOUS CONCRETE PAVEMENT TO TILCON-CT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$460,000, AND THE BID FOR MILLING TO GARRITY ASPHALT RECLAIMING, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000,”** seconded by Deputy John Console.

Jeff Bridges reported that each year as part of the CIP paving program, staff utilizes the State bid for selection of vendors for paving and for milling. The bids are awarded by district by the State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services and the lowest bidders for the Town’s district are TILCON-CT Inc for bituminous concrete pavement and Garrity Asphalt Reclaiming, Inc. for pavement milling. The attached memos from Public Works Director Michael Turner provide more information about the bids and the pricing.

The Capital Budget for 2010-2011 includes \$500,000 for the paving program. Combining funds remaining in the 2009-2010 budget with the 2010-2011 budget, staff is recommending that \$60,000 be utilized for paving and \$100,000 for milling and reclamation. Prior to commencing work, staff will provide Town Council with information about the roads that will be completed.

Councilor Drake asked for clarification as to whether what Council approved last month regarding General Paving is the same issue as this present one.

Michael Turner responded that two months ago General Paving was awarded a contract for miscellaneous paving prep bid which covers raising catch basins, manholes and redoing driveway aprons. The state bids that are being considered tonight are strictly for the roads themselves.

Councilor Hurley asked if there is \$60,000 left over from last year.

Jeff Bridges responded that the money is shifted forward to the current next year capital.

Jeff Bridges asked if Mike Turner knew what roads would be worked on this year.

Mike Turner responded the major roads being worked on is Highland Street and State Street.

Deputy Mayor Console asked if State Street and Route 3 is part of the program.

Mike Turner responded that the work being done for Middletown Avenue will use other monies. The work will start from the bend near Summerfield up to the foot line.

Councilor Hurley asked if a list of the work being done can be distributed to Council before the meeting.

Mike Turner responded that he would take care of that.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Councilor Hurley moved to **“AWARD A CONTRACT FOR SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR TO WESPRO, LTD.,”** seconded by Deputy Mayor Console.

Jeff Bridges reported that annually the staff solicits bids from qualified firms for the repair and replacement of sidewalks throughout the Town. After reviewing the competitive bids, staff recommends award to Wespro, Ltd. of Wethersfield, the lowest responsible bidder. This vendor is consistently the lowest bidder and they do a competent job. This contract is for the 2010-2011 fiscal year with an appropriation of \$45,000.

Deputy Mayor Console stated that Wespro has been doing the work around town for several years now and they have been doing a good job and commented that the owner of the company also lives in Town so it is nice to keep the money in town.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

MINUTES

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 7, 2010”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Chairperson Hemmann presented a report of Wethersfield, Connecticut done by a child from Orange, Connecticut.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Barbara Ruhe, 79 Main Street, commented that she hoped that the paving job done at Mill Woods is done better than what was done on Morrison Avenue. Secondly, she stated that the vegetation and trees have become very overgrown at the Marsh Street Gateway area off of I-91 and it would be nice to have volunteers help clear out the brush. Also, she noted that there is a lot of dumping of landscaping material being done at the back of the cemetery and the Town should be aware of that. She also stated that she isn't opposed to the metal guiderails and suggested adding plantings that do not require mowing.

Jeff Bridges noted that Inland Wetlands Committee is aware of what is going on in the back of the cemetery and is looking into the situation.

Ballou Tooker, 65 Harmund Place, commended the Council for their good attitude to the taxpayers. He also suggested recognizing Dick Lasher for the work he has done for the Town of Wethersfield. He also asked if the area off the highway in which state commercial state vehicles are parked could be shielded and with regards to the Wilkus Farm property could there possibly be a sunset clause put in to see how the committee forms. He also commented on the inserts being included with the tax bills and thought it was a good idea and suggested including the streets that are going to be repaired so the residents know what is going on.

Chairperson Hemmann noted that the committee has eight weeks to do the work that needs to be done.

George Wallace, Chesterfield Road, spoke regarding that the trucks parked at the Marsh Street area most probably cannot be moved because work is done during the night. Also commented on the guiderails, ratings for the towns of Greater Hartford and noted that Wethersfield was rated higher years ago.

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Avenue, commented on repairs that need to be done to the sidewalks on Morrison Avenue, thought the fees for the transfer station were good, and thought the cost for the wood guide rails was expensive and didn't feel it was worth it.

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, commented on the shared services of the Finance

Department and the School Board and suggested including the maintenance department. Also asked about the status of “the Pond”, the formation of the Wilkus Farm Committee and the transfer of money not used by the Nature Center.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, commented on the sale of Comstock Ferre, the hiring of Finance and Human Resources people by the Board of Education and asked what has happened with the topic of Shared Services.

Deputy Mayor Console reminded everyone of the meeting on Monday, June 28 regarding Morrison Avenue and encouraged everyone to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:30p.m., Deputy Mayor Console moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Manousos. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk

Approved by Vote of Council
August 16, 2010